

REMARKS

With the cancellation of claims 17 and 31 without prejudice, claims 18 to 30, and 32 are pending and being considered in the present application, since claims 1 to 16 were previously canceled. It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 18 to 25 include allowable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 18 and 25 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of its respective base claim. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 18, and its dependent claims 19 to 24, and claim 25 are allowable. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 26 and 32 has been amended herein without prejudice to include subject matter of claim 18, so that claims 26 to 30 and 32 are allowable.

Claims 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as assertedly directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 31 has been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present rejection with respect to claim 31.

With respect to claim 32, while Applicants do not agree with the merits of the rejection, to facilitate matters, claim 32 has been amended herein without prejudice to recite "a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions," which is squarely within at least one of the four categories set forth in 35 U.S.C. § 101, e.g., a manufacture.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

The remaining rejected claims have been canceled without prejudice, so as to obviate all the remaining claim rejections.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.


Accordingly, all of pending claims 18 to 30, and 32 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 18 to 30, and 32 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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